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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJMC Receives \$15,000 Dodge Foundation Grant For Sustainability Programs

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) today announced that it has received a \$15,000 grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to use toward its Sustainable Meadowlands programs, which are helping position the Meadowlands District for an environmentally and economically sound future.

“We are pleased that the Dodge Foundation has recognized the NJMC’s commitment to initiatives that support sustainability,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “The NJMC is a leader in promoting sustainability, and this funding will assist our ongoing efforts in making a positive impact on the region environmentally and economically.”

The NJMC will use the grant funding to help District Municipalities become more sustainable through programs that promote energy efficiency and other aspects of sustainability. The Commission plans to assist towns in achieving certification under the state’s Sustainable Jersey Program, which rewards communities that go green with access to grants and other financial incentives.

The funding will also be used toward the NJMC Green Living Program, an outreach initiative which will further educate the public on embracing sustainability in their everyday lives. This program will involve a series of workshops, held throughout the District, to educate residents on home energy audits, green shopping, sustainable gardening, and more.

The NJMC has promoted sustainability in the Meadowlands through a number of green and renewable energy initiatives in recent years. The Commission offers financial incentives to developers who build green and is helping District municipalities and school districts prepare solar energy plans for their buildings through its

Municipal Solar Assistance program. The Commission is also helping District businesses recycle more and find other ways to conserve through its Meadowlands Challenge program and made up to \$20,000 available to District towns for use toward the purchase of an energy-efficient hybrid vehicle.

The Commission has also led by example. Its new science center is a fully green building that uses solar panels to generate power and features energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems. The center recently became the first public building in New Jersey to attain LEED Platinum Certification – the highest rating – from the U.S. Green Building Council. And an energy audit led to energy-efficient measures being taken in the NJMC’s administrative building and Meadowlands Environment Center.

“The NJMC’s Sustainable Meadowlands programs are vital to the continuing economic and environmental health of the area,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “By aggressively pursuing sustainability programs and helping District municipalities do the same, the NJMC is helping improve the quality of life in the Meadowlands District today while laying the foundation for a bright future.”

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